

JOPPA/JOPPATOWNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Number 132E

May 6, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Office of the Sheriff Southern Precinct meeting room, first floor, beginning at 7:00 P.M. except for July and August. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

Opening: By Chairperson Paula Mullis. It was followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Yvonne Baldwin, Betty Byrne, Ron Sollod, Bob Frisch, and Vincent Rabenau. Former JJCC member JoAnn M. Macdonald was Acting Secretary for Doris Carey. Absentees: Doris Carey and James B. Lyons. Chairperson Mullis welcomed all community members and requested council members to introduce themselves. Mrs. Mullis acknowledged special guest: Sharon Lipford, Deputy Director of the Harford County Department of Community Services.

She then called for a motion to approve the Minutes from April 1, 2013; Gloria Moon made the motion to approve and Betty Byrne seconded the motion.

Next: Mullis enthusiastically thanked District A Council Representative Dion Guthrie for his efforts on the community's behalf in ending the goal to put a waste transfer station at the old Plecker's property on Philadelphia Road (MD Route 7). "We all deserve a pat on the back." The citizens in attendance applauded Guthrie, and at his urging, themselves.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie.

Guthrie went on to speak about local issues. One was the success of the circle (roundabout) at Fort Hoyle Road on Trimble Road near the Magnolia Elementary and Middle Schools. Second, he went on to chronicle the four-year history of the evolution of the APG incinerator issue. The incinerator goes off-line in 2016 and then will be torn down. The Army and the County Government ended discussions to rebuild the incinerator which demanded that a new solution had to be found to solve the trash collection issue in the county. As a result, after many twists and turns in two years, one of which most recently, the county executive's quest to build a waste transfer station at Plecker's property ended a week ago. The solution, through the dedicated and

doggedly efforts of Dion Guthrie and supported by a small group of Joppa and Joppatowne citizens, is that Baltimore County's Eastern Sanitary Landfill at Day's Cove Road and U.S. Route 40, will be the destination for the trash. *Baltimore County will buy Harford County's trash—all of it.* The county residents will no longer have to pay haulers out of their own pockets or haul their trash to other sites and the Scarboro Landfill. The county will contract with haulers. The three incorporated municipalities will continue to collect in their towns and deal with contracted collectors on their own. The Scarboro Landfill will no longer accept trash—however, will be open to recycling. Ron Sollod of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department presented Guthrie with a citation for his exceptional efforts on behalf of the citizens of Joppa, Joppatowne and all subdivisions in between. Dion was “speechless”. He said: “I am fighting for the community and myself--and my family. Sometimes good things come out of bad decisions. Who would have thought four years ago our trash would leave and we will be paid!”

Guthrie encouraged the citizens to check his website—he will keep us informed of progress. He gave out copies of the Baltimore County-Harford County Solid Waste Disposal Agreement. MUCH applause! Discussion ensued re: uses for Plecker's property—new facility for Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department? Community Center?

The Sheriff's Office/Community Policing Report: Lt. Daugherty of the Harford County Sheriff's Office reported and advised: With warmer weather coming, pay attention to keeping doors and windows closed and locked when residents leave the premises. Do not advertise your vacation plans. Take sensible precautions such as having newspapers and mail picked up or held. Also: nationwide and locally: medications and prescription drugs are being stolen in burglaries. Tell only trusted people where you keep prescriptions, especially narcotics you may be taking. Visitors at your door? Take their literature and say no more. Go to the Sheriff's office website for suggestions and advice. Scammers were discussed; senior citizens may be more vulnerable. New P.I.O. Eddie Hopkins has an assistant.

Presentation – Sharon M. Lipford: Ms. Lipford is Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services (DCS) for Harford County, and an articulate and well-spoken presenter. She directed attention to handouts and the projected presentation, explaining each ‘box’. The DCS has five divisions, five commissions, and three boards. “It is important to hear from citizens. Where do you turn when you need assistance?” In describing certain boxes on the handouts, Ms. Lipford highlighted specific points. One involved the counting of homeless

persons every January—a Federal government requirement. Held the last week of January at 6 p.m. (no definite date given), “it gives a good sense of who they are and what needs they might have.” Harford County’s Homeless Shelter sponsored by FCCAU (combined civil government and religious organizations) had 158 homeless with only 8 persons counted as “on the street” in January 2013. Further discussion ensued about the number of mentally ill persons, disabled persons and others who are homeless and those who are held in the Harford County Detention Center. She advised calling the DCS at 410-638-3389 to report anything suspicious or unusable about an individual, instead of 911 or the Sheriff’s Office. The example given for her advice was a recent siting of two teen-age girls who seemed to the citizen to be alone; perhaps homeless. Ms. Lipford’s handouts were most helpful in detailing the many services we pay for and should take advantage of if we are in need.

Edgewood/Joppatowne Independence Parade Update. Sue Heselton: The Carnival will be held at the usual site: Joppatowne’s Towne Plaza parking lot: U.S. Route 40 and Joppa Farm Road May 20th –the 27th. Ms. Heselton gave handouts advertising the need *to purchase wristband tickets at the discounted price of \$12.00 before the carnival only on May 11th and 18th at the Farmer’s Market. The price at the Carnival will be \$20.00.* Watch for flyers posted in the two communities and other sites. The Edgewood/Joppatowne Parade will be on Saturday, July 6th in Edgewood this year. It will begin at the Boys & Girls Club, out to Hanson road, right turn at Edgewood Road, and left turn onto Willoughby Beach Road to the school complex. Contact phone number: 410-679-6419. Volunteers always needed!

Board of Education Update. Bob Frisch, School Board Member: Bob announced the search has begun for a new superintendent of HCPS and the Interim Superintendent’s name will be announced by June 10th. He takes input from citizens seriously—on any school issues. He highlighted the Capital budget on several points: Joppatowne High and Havre de Grace High repair/replace issues are not being funded this year either. Last year the IEC turned them both down. Regarding school security: HCPS has been in “campaign [mode] for securing schools without turning them into fortresses. Post-Newtown, Connecticut [tragedy], more County agencies have been involved.” Frisch was adamant that County Executive David Craig did not put money into the budget for infrastructure. “He needed to put \$750 million into it to get \$1 million from the State of Maryland.” He encouraged citizens to turn out for the budget meetings on May 15th and 16th. Also—attend County Council meetings on Tuesdays--make your opinions

and voices heard. The budget will be underfunded by “\$20-some million”, which includes the wage package. “Things cost more. Already cut: 100+ classroom positions. *Things are getting bad. Programs will be cut, cut, cut. Some things are required by Federal law.*” Bob pointedly spoke about the bussing of homeless children to other counties, e.g., one child to Frederick County at Harford County taxpayers’ expense in order to keep stability in the child’s life. *Much discussion ensued on this topic and other school issues:* Harford Technical High and the need for more ‘vocational’ courses and training. Further: HCPS spends \$33 million for transportation; contracts out for regular students, but it has own Special Ed. students busses. Another topic he highlighted: “Pay to Play” or Student Activity fees as in Howard County perhaps Harford should do similarly to raise \$\$.

Bob also stressed that he is in favor of another vocational-technical high school; that some programs can go to other schools; that thinking at the school board level and the superintendent’s level have to change; Harford County spends one-half of its tax dollars on the HCPS. “There is an attitude at the Federal and state levels that everyone has to go to college.” He disagrees and many at the meeting nodded their heads. Education decisions should be made locally. “Students are being pressured to pick careers when in the 8th grade”, yet it is known that adults may change careers several times in their lives. In his opinion HCPS “should give a broader education to students.”

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community:

Ron Sollod of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department: He is now Fire Prevention Chair for the JMVFD. Ron highlighted: Check clothes dryers for clogged filters and lint in the vent pipes. Remove combustible materials from the dryer. Check smoke detectors—change batteries. At the recent Rabies Clinic held at JMVFD, 470 animals were vaccinated. He also commented on the many accidents at the corner of MD Routes 152 and 7, near the fire house. May 5th-11th is Arson Awareness Week. Vandalism, especially arson, is known to provide excitement to juveniles as well as adults. There were over 300 EMS calls in April; some from automatic alarms. He announced Open House in June; state convention for VFD’s.

Jeff Wainwright (President of the JMVFD) had input as various discussions ensued: RE: budget issues—the Hanson Road location received \$750,000, but it is not enough. JMVFD pays its own members; 24/7 BLS 16/7. Asked to have the second unit certified/funded for paramedics. They are getting 3 units out on a regular basis. Dion Guthrie is assisting in whatever capacity he can. Wainwright will contact the MD State Highway Dept. regarding the U-turns at routes 152 and 7.

Trinity Lutheran Church has complained about large trucks using their church and school property to turn around in order to get to the WAWA convenience store or to I-95. Also, he urged citizens to come out to the budget meetings on the 15th and 16th to support the fire companies.

Vincent Rabenau: He addressed Dion with this: he has a 'Nature-conscious concern' for Harford County since he travels often to Colorado Springs, CO where those residents have more land dedicated to Nature. He is concerned about the large parcel of land in Abingdon that was bequeathed for use by the Cultural Arts. Discussion ensued re 'passive park' for the Center for the Arts non-profit organization.

Gloria Moon: Congratulated Dion for the Proclamation given to him by JJCC. She has concerns about cutting the budget. Also, on Doris' behalf Gloria acknowledged the groundbreaking for Towson University at Harford Community College.

Betty Byrne: Representing the JMFVD Auxiliary: On May 17th at 7 p.m., a "Fire Prevention Basket and Handbag BINGO affair will be held. Tickets are \$15.00 and food will be available. Ladies meet the second Monday of the month for Bingo lunches at 11 a.m., and on Wednesdays for Bingo at 7 p.m. Remember: the Fire Hall is available for rentals.

JoAnn Macdonald: Offered to advertise meetings on the Redner's Store bulletin board.

Paula Mullis: Thanked the community for its support and encouraged more support and attendance from neighbors and friends.

Adjourned: 8:56 p.m., Paula motioned; several members seconded.

Minutes by JoAnn M. Macdonald